



# Specialized Services for Persons who are Blind or Visually Impaired



APR 04 2006

ILLINOIS  
DEPOSITORY

APR 04 2006

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

# **DHS-DRS** *Empowering* **PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

**through Specialized Services  
Persons who are**

**The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) is the state agency serving persons with disabilities. DRS staff work one-on-one with individuals and their families to empower them to achieve employment, education, and independent living.**

We recognize that individuals who become disabled later in life often need assistance to achieve independence.

The DHS/DRS' Bureau of Blind Services (BBS) provides programs for adults with vision impairment. BBS is designed to help individuals participate in their family and community life.

BBS teams deliver "World Class" services across Illinois. Each year, thousands of individuals rediscover their independence and achieve goals in BBS programs.

UNIVERSITY OF  
ILLINOIS LIBRARY  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN  
BOOKSTACKS

STX

362, 4

Sp 31

## Specialized Services for Blind or Visually Impaired

Human Services' Division of  
(H/DRS) is the state's lead  
agency for individuals with  
disabilities. Our staff  
assist individuals who have disabilities  
to reach their  
independent living goals.

Individuals who are blind or lose their vision  
must adjust to their disability.

Blindness Services (BBS) operates four  
programs. These programs are  
designed to help individuals participate more independently in

"Customer Service" to individuals  
and of Illinois residents  
to achieve freedom through participation

# Vocational Rehabilitation Program

BBS staff work in partnership with our customers to help them:

- Find employment,
- Maintain employment, and
- Achieve education and training goals.

## Community-based Instructional Program

Rehabilitation Instructors and Orientation and Mobility Instructors teach independent living skills at the person's home, school, workplace or other community site.

Services include:

- Adjusting to vision loss,
- Mobility training,
- Communication skills,
- Homemaking skills, and
- Use of technology.

Individuals over 55 are also served through our Older Blind Program.

# **Illinois Center for Rehabilitation and Education-Wood (ICRE-W)**

Some customers may benefit from our more concentrated program in a residential center in Chicago.

The Illinois Center for Rehabilitation and Education-Wood (ICRE-W) provides pre-vocational and independent skills training.

Independent living classes are also offered to older adults who live within a commuting distance.

**BBS services are available to Illinois residents who have a vision impairment.**

**DHS/DRS' Bureau of Blind  
Services Central Office:  
217-785-3887 (V/TTY)  
217-524-1235 (FAX)**

# **Business Enterprise Program for the Blind (BEPB)**

Located at ICRE-Wood, the BEPB offers management opportunities in the food service industry.

Individuals with vision impairments operate vending facilities in public buildings, community colleges, gift shops and highway rest areas statewide.

The program's six-month training course includes on-the-job training. Blind vendors average more than \$40,000 a year in earnings.



Programs, activities and employment opportunities in the Illinois Department of Human Services are open and accessible to any individual or group without regard to age, sex, race, sexual orientation, disability, ethnic origin or religion. The department is an equal opportunity employer and practices affirmative action and reasonable accommodation programs.

**DHS 4678 (R-05-05) DRS' Bureau of Blind Services**

Printed by the Authority of the State of Illinois.

10,000 copies P.O.# 0698



**For more information:  
Call or visit your Illinois  
Department of Human  
Services DRS office or Family  
Community Resource Center  
(FCRC).**

If you have questions about any Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) program, call or visit your local IDHS/DRS office or FCRC. We will answer your questions. If you do not know where your office is or if you are unable to go there, you may call the automated helpline 24 hours a day at:

**1-800-843-6154**

**1-800-447-6404 (TTY)**

You may speak to a representative between:

**8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

**Monday - Friday** (except state holidays)

For answers to your questions, you may also write:

**Illinois Department of Human  
Services**

Bureau of Customer and Provider  
Assistance

100 South Grand Avenue East  
Springfield, Illinois 62762

Visit our web site at:

**[www.dhs.state.il.us](http://www.dhs.state.il.us)**

**Department of Human Services**  
**Division of Rehabilitation Services**  
**Bureau of Blind Services**  
**400 W. Lawrence**  
**Springfield, IL 62794**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



**3 0112 075667789**